

**St. Andrew's by the Sea Uniting Church**  
**Christian Community in the Heart of Glenelg**  
**Rev. Christine Gilbert**



**Seventh Sunday after the Pentecost**  
**28th July 2019**

I will now allure her, and bring her into the wilderness,  
and speak tenderly to her.  
—Hosea 2:14

## **GATHERING**

### **Preparing the Space and Our Hearts**

#### **Call to Worship**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Psalm 85

O Beloved, how gracious you are to your people;  
 you restore our souls time and time again.  
 You forgive our distractions when we wander far from you;  
 you give us new life.

Yes, you bless us and raise up new hope;  
 you awaken our hearts to love.

***Restore us again, O Spirit of Truth;  
 burn us with the refining fire of love!***

We cannot live separated from you;  
 so, cast out the demons of fear, doubt and illusion.

***Have compassion on us, O Holy One,  
 and grant us your forgiveness.***

Listen, O people, in the silent chapel of your heart;  
 the Beloved will speak of peace to you,  
 to all who tune their hearts with Love...

*(moment of silence)*

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
 righteousness and peace will embrace one another.  
 Wisdom will spring up from the ground  
 and truth will look down from the sky.

***Open our hearts.***

***Guide our footsteps.***

***Lead us to you, our everlasting peace.***

**Hymn**

“Come, O fount of every blessing”

Come, O Fount over every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,  
giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning,  
God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God,  
came to rescue me from danger,  
blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I've known:  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for your very own.

Words: Robert Robinson  
Tune: Nettleton

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
***And also with you.***

**ENCOUNTERING****Scripture Reading**

Hosea 1:2-10

May your word live in us:

***and bear much fruit to your glory.***

**Reflection on the Word****RESPONDING****Reflective Song**

“God of the Moon and Stars”

God of the moon and stars  
 God of the gay and single bars  
 God of the fragile hearts we are  
 I come to you  
 God of our history  
 God of the future that will be  
 What will you make of me  
 I come to you

God of the war and peace  
 God of the junkie and the priest  
 God of the greatest and the least  
 I come to you  
 God of the refugee  
 God of the prisoner and the free  
 God of our doubt and certainty  
 I come to you

God of the meek and mild  
 God of the reckless and the wild  
 God of the unreconciled  
 I come to you  
 God of our life and death  
 God of our secrets unconfessed  
 God of our every breath  
 I come to you

God of our joy and grief  
 God of the lawyer and the thief  
 God of our faith and unbelief  
 I come to you  
 God of the wounds we bear  
 God of the deepest dreams we share  
 God of our unspoken prayer  
 I come to you

God of the rich and poor  
 God of the princess and the whore  
 God of the ever open door  
 I come to you  
 God of the unborn child  
 God of the pure and undefiled  
 God of the pimp and paedophile  
 I come to you

God of world that's lost  
 God of the lonely cross  
 God who has come to us  
 I come to you

## Prayers of the People

Response:

For this, we pray. ***Hear our prayer***

Warming God, in this time of winter, you invite us to turn inwards and reflect on the cycles of life and the seasons of our lives. We bring to mind our families, partners, children, friends and work mates. May the seeds of emerging life receive nourishment from the soils of love and care.

We think of those who find winter a time of loneliness and coldness through lack of companionship. Give us eyes to see and embolden us to reach out to one another with kindness and friendship.

We pray for those who live on the streets of our cities and towns. May the immediate need for shelter and protection be met. Move us with compassion and concern.

We pray for those who feel exiled through shame or guilt, torn from the warm hearths of family and community. May we extend arms of openness and acceptance to all.

We pray for our world. As we experience the depths of winter, half of the planet is living in the heat of summer. May we remember with wonder the balancing of the earth's resources and our interconnection with one another. Help us not lose sight of the bigger picture amidst our everyday joys and struggles.

God of all seasons, we place our concerns into your loving hands.  
*(moments of silent prayer)*

We give thanks that you are the source of faithful love and entrust our prayers to you. Enable us to let go. Give us your peace. ***Amen.***

*(From Sanctuary: Where Heaven Touches Earth by Trish Watts and Gabrielle Lord, adapted)*

## The Disciple's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.*

*For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.*

## Collection and Offering Song      "Gift to the world"

We bring the gifts that you have brought us,  
we sing the songs that you are teaching to us.  
Take our lives, take our time, take our possessions;  
make us your gift to the world,  
make us your gift to the world.

Words and music: Robin Mann

## Prayer of Dedication

*Dear God,  
today we take another step in our journey with you.  
Fill us with your Spirit.  
Lead us deeper into Christ.  
Shine your light on the path before us.  
For this we hope and pray. Amen.*

**Hymn**                      “A spendthrift lover is the Lord”                      (TiS 676)

1 A spendthrift lover is the Lord who never counts the cost or asks if heaven can afford to woo a world that’s lost. Our lover tosses coins of gold across the midnight skies, and stokes the sun against the cold to warm us when we rise.	2 Still more is spent in blood and tears to win the human heart, to overcome the violent fears that drive the world apart. Behold the bruised and thorn-crowned face of one who bears our scars, and empties out the wealth of grace that’s hinted by the stars.
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3  
How shall we love this heart-strong God  
who gives us everything,  
whose ways to us are strange and odd:  
what can we give or bring?  
Acceptance of the matchless gift  
is gift enough to give;  
the very act will shake and shift  
the way we love and live.

Words: Thomas Henry Troeger  
Tune: Kingsfold

**Sung Benediction**                      “May the kindness of our Lord, Jesus”

May the kindness of our Lord, Jesus  
And the love of our God  
And the friendship, and the unity  
of the Spirit be with you.  
Be with you.

Words and music: Andrew Dutney

**Readings for Sunday 4th August 2019**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Hosea 11:1-11  
Psalm 107:1-9, 43  
Colossians 3:1-11  
Luke 12:13-21

**Rostered Duties**

**Prayers of the People:**  
Chris Croucher

**Scripture Reader:**  
Sean Gilbert

**Morning Tea:**  
Peter and Peta Thomas

**Birthday Cake:**  
Judy Clayton

**Welcomer:**  
Jennifer Portway

**Side Door after Worship:**  
Chris Croucher

**This Week at St Andrews:**

The Church is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10.30 am to 3.00 pm.

**Sunday:**

10:30 am Fellowship  
11:30 am - 3:30 pm Arts by the Sea—Christmas in July event  
6:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

**Monday:**

10:00 am—11:30 am Ladies Sharing Group

**Tuesday:**

10:30 am—1:30 pm Op-Shop  
11:00 am—1:00 pm Friendship Cafe  
12:00 noon — 2:30 pm Community Aid  
6:00 pm—7:30 pm Marys' Kitchen

**Wednesday:**

**Thursday:**

10:30 am—1:30 pm Op-Shop  
11:00 am—1:00 pm Friendship Cafe  
12:00 noon — 2:30 pm Community Aid  
7:30 pm—10:00 pm Evening Fellowship

**Friday:**

12:00 noon — 2:30 pm Community Aid

**Saturday:**

**Contact Information:**

St Andrews By The Sea Uniting Church  
92 Jetty Rd, Glenelg SA 5045

Office Administrator: Marguerite Saint | 10.30 am - 2.30pm, Tues to Fri  
Email: [office@standrewsuc.org.au](mailto:office@standrewsuc.org.au) | Phone: 08 8295 1771

Rev. Christine Gilbert: 0400 151 691

Website: <http://www.standrewsuc.org.au>